Purchase of Tanks by Pakistan from Ukraine

2507. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether $550 million contract for the supply of 320 Ukrainian tanks was signed between Ukraine and Pakistan in Islamabad on July 31, 1996;

(b) whether it has been reported that Pak's purchase of these tanks would destabilise the current dynamic balance between defence potentials of India and Pakistan and trigger off a new round of arms race between the two countries;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether any concrete steps are being considered to meet the situation arising out of this contract; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) According to available reports, Pakistan and Ukraine entered into a contract in July 1996, for the sale of about 300 T-80 UD tanks to Pakistan.

(b) and (c). There is apprehension that these supplies will impact adversely on the military balance between India and Pakistan Government believe that the acquisition of weapons by Pakistan, beyond its legitimate requirements, is not conducive to peace and security in the region.

(d) and (e). Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on national security and take all necessary steps to safeguard it

Concept of 'Zero Vacancy'

2508. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the concept of "Zero Vacancy" in the context of posting of teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) whether it is still being acted upon;

(c) if so, the details of its *modus operandi*; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d). There is no concept of Zero vacancy mentioned in the Transfer Guidelines approved by the Board of Governors for transfer/postings of teachers.

[Translation]

Admission of Grandchildren of Employees of KVS

2509. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the grandchildren of the working and retired employees of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan are given admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas on priority basis; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). The grand-children of serving employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan and Kendriya Vidyalayas are given second priority for admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

[English]

Commercial Sexual Exploitation

2510 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention had been drawn to the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation held at Stockholm in September, 1996;

(b) the specific measures taken to check this menace discussed and recommended by the World Congress; and

(c) the steps taken and are being taken by the Government in the light thereof?

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held at Stockholm (Sweden) from 27-31 August, 1996 adopted a Declaration and an Agenda for Action. The Agenda for Action adopted calls for integrated strategies and measures so that by the year 2000 A.D., there are national agendas for action and indicators of progress, with set goals and time-frame for implementation, targetted to reducing the number of vulnerable children and bringing about an improvement in the attitude of the society towards child rights. The Agenda for Action further calls upon the National Governments to develop implementation and monitoring mechanisms at the national and local levels as well as for close interaction and cooperation between the Government and Non-Government sectors to plan and implement measures against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.